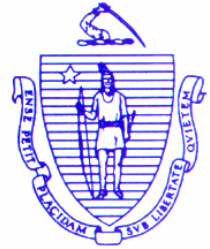




**Paul J. Diodati**  
*Director*

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
**Division of Marine Fisheries**  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 400  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 626.1520  
Fax (617) 626.1509



**May 8, 2003**  
**Federal Grant Update**

**Economic Assistance to Qualified  
Federal Multi-Species Permit Holders is Distributed**

Economic assistance appropriated by Congress last fall for New England's multi-species fishermen and fishing communities is currently being distributed to federally permitted fishermen within Massachusetts. Qualified applicants should be receiving their money from the Commonwealth within a week.

There are over 800 federally permitted vessel owners who are either based in MA or land most of their fish here. The judge's ruling resulted in Massachusetts fishermen losing over 12,000 days-at-sea. Those who meet the criteria as active participants can expect to be paid \$616 for each lost day, and will receive an average payout of approximately \$12,500.

In August 2002 President Bush signed the *Supplemental Appropriation Act for Further Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States* into law. One section of that law provided 11 million dollars to New England fishermen and fishing communities hit hard by court-ordered cutbacks in the number of Days-at-Sea they could fish. The Massachusetts portion of the assistance funding was 5.5 million dollars.

After several public meetings and in consultation with industry leaders, the Division of Marine Fisheries developed a program in which more than 95% of the funds are going to federally-permitted vessel owners in a Lost Income Subsidy Program. In order to qualify, vessel owners were required to be documented participants in the fishery, as indicated by the number of days they lost, and their landings. Qualified fishermen were those who lost more than 2 Days-At-Sea and landed at least 10,000 pounds of groundfish in the fishing year 2000 or 2001. Nearly 5.3 million dollars is allocated to this program.

Lost Income Subsidy Program (LIS) for federally permitted vessel owners	\$ 5,261,000
Fishing Infrastructure Subsidy Program (FIS) for gillnet and dragger vessel owners restricted to State waters	\$ 84,000
Insurance Premium Subsidy (IPS) for crew receiving no other assistance	\$ 50,000
Administration	\$ 105,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,500,000</b>

For additional information, contact Cindy Smith at [cindy.smith@state.ma.us](mailto:cindy.smith@state.ma.us).